

REMARKS

Claims 11-19 are presented for consideration, with Claims 11 and 19 being independent.

As will be appreciated, Claims 11 -19 were originally submitted in U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/553,625, filed October 19, 2005, as Claims 1-9. The '625 application has been consolidated with the subject application (see Decision mailed April 26, 2006).

In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on September 23, 2008, Applicants agreed to submit the subject claims in a Preliminary Amendment.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCHS_WS 2523186v1